Acie Belton

Acie Julius Belton was born in Converse, Sabine Parish, Louisiana on January 9, 1916. He was the son of George and Lena Ann Belton. He married Sallie Brown and they had one son, Wesley Julius Belton. After serving in the United States Army during World War II, Belton moved to Baton Rouge in 1946 and became one of the area’s earliest civil rights leaders. Belton was a founding member of the Second Ward Voters League and served as the group’s president and launched a voter registration campaign to encourage African Americans to vote. Between 1946 and 1949, the number of black voters in East Baton Rouge Parish swelled from 137 black registrants to more than 2,000, mostly from the Scotlandville area. Other league founders were Nicholas Harrison, Sr., Raymond P. Scott, O.M. Amacher, A.A. Lenoir, T.J. Jordan, Arthur Franklin, Henry Franklin, G.B. Robinson, Bonnie V. Moore, Simon Lewis, and Vaughn Parris. Louisiana was an overwhelmingly Democratic state at the time, which meant that the black voters only had a voice in the presidential race every four years. The Second Ward Voters League, a black political organization long led by Belton endorsed candidates. From representatives and senators to mayor-president of the city and parish, from marching for environmental and social justice to sitting in for desegregation, Scotlandville residents’ involvement in politics—from that time to the present—had been varied and strong.

Along with several other black leaders, Belton organized the Federated Organization for the Cause of Unlimited Self Development (FOCUS), an organization designed to obtain jobs for African Americans in public agencies.

Belton was also a member of the board of directors of the United Defense League, the organization that led the 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott. Belton first ran for the school board in 1960 and after seeking that office in several elections, won the seat in 1970.
He served on several state and city biracial committees, which oversaw the hiring of black employees. In 1980, Governor David Treen appointed him to the State Parole Board, and in 1988, he became a member of Baton Rouge’s Metro Council. Belton worked for many years at the Exxon oil refinery in Baton Rouge.

Belton died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on October 14, 1995 and is interred at the Southern Memorial Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA.